

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
May 14, 1937.

To the Forty-fifth Legislature of the State of Texas:

I am today disapproving and vetoing House Bill No. 392 for the following reasons:

This Bill amends Article 1436, of the Revised Civil Statutes which requires all electric wires to be constructed and maintained over public property at a height of at least 22 feet by substantially changing this requirement so that "in no case shall such lines be maintained at a height of less than fifteen (15) feet, provided, however, that this requirement shall not apply to service wires running from any house, building or structure to the first pole; or such lines may be constructed and maintained in underground pipes and conduits, as the exigencies of the case may require."

The recited purpose of the Bill is to assist in rural electrification, but the grant of power as contained in the Bill is so broad as to absolutely change the requirements with reference to electric utilities in general. I do not believe that these restrictions should be lessened over the State as a whole simply for the recited purpose of aiding rural electrification. It might be if the Bill were limited in its application to rural electrification projects that this legislation would be appropriate. Under the circumstances, however, I am unwilling to approve the same.

For the reasons stated, I have therefore disapproved and vetoed the Bill, and am returning it to the House of Representatives in which it originated.

Respectfully submitted

JAMES V. ALLRED
Governor of Texas